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Pleasantville, New York 10570

June 6, 2000

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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NATIONAL HIGHWAY
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Administrator:

It is probably impossible to imagine in advance of its passage, all of the legitimate exceptions to a law. I believe Elizabeth Fisher's petition to amend 49CFR571.209, regarding requiring automobile manufacturers to provide seat belt assemblies to fit their passengers, is one of those exceptions which now needs to be addressed.

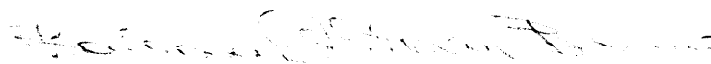
As you have learned by now, about 55% of Americans have been deemed "overweight." Many, including my husband, weigh more than 215 pounds. All deserve to be accommodated if they wish to use car seat belts.

I was appalled to learn that Honda, from which my husband and I have bought many vehicles, refused to provide seat belts or extenders adequate for larger passengers. Although I have written to Honda, it appears we need more inclusive legislation from you in order to allow us this extra measure of protection.

It is absurd that people who wish to comply with Buckle Up America cannot do so! It is unfair that some are ticketed for not being belted, when they cannot get a seat belt to fit them. And it is appalling that any could be injured or killed because they are not given the same opportunities to protect themselves as smaller people.

Please amend your regulations to protect more highway passengers. If a passenger fits in a vehicle, that vehicle ought to offer adequate seat belts to fit (expanded) NHTSA standards.

Sincerely yours,



Barbara Altman Bruno
Author, Worth Your Weight